

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01805 020617Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----005301 020626Z /11
O R 020545Z JUL 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1240
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 1805

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, ICRC, IS
SUBJECT: ICRC REPRESENTATIVES ON TREATMENT OF ARAB PRISONERS
IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

FROM AMBASSADOR LEWIS

REF: GENEVA 9932

1. I CONFESS SOME CONCERN WITH COMMENTS BY ICRC
SENIOR OFFICIALS TO SIEVERTS WHICH ARE DESCRIBED IN
REFTEL. AS ADDRESSEES KNOW, I WENT IN HARD AT WEIZMAN
ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO ON THE QUESTION OF EARLIER ICRC
ACCESS TO ARAB PRISONERS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, AND
IMPLIED WE WANTED ICRC ACCESS IN FIRST SEVEN DAYS SINCE
THAT IS WHEN ALLEGED MISTREATMENT OCCURS. NOW I AM TOLD
THAT THE ICRC CONSIDERS THE AGREEMENT REACHED SIX MONTHS
AGO A MAJOR ADVANCEMENT AND THAT GOI WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW
ICRC VISITS TO PRISONERS UNDER INTERROGATION AT ALL IS
NEARLY UNIQUE.

2. IF THIS IS ICRC VIEW MY PLEA FOR EARLY ICRC ACCESS
SECRET

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IS NOT GOING TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY WEIZMAN OR ANY-
BODY ELSE IN THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. MORE WORRISOME
THAN THAT, IF THEY DON'T TAKE US SERIOUSLY ON THE ICRC
POINT, THEY MAY ALSO DISREGARD OUR WARNINGS ABOUT
THE EFFECT ON ISRAEL'S REPUTATION IF MISTREATMENT OF
ARAB PRISONERS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES HITS THE
FRONTPAGES IN THE U.S.

3. THEREFORE, I HOPE IN THE PERIOD AHEAD THAT WE WILL
BE ABLE TO COORDINATE OUR POSITION ON ICRC ACCESS WITH
THE ICRC. IF IT WILL SETTLE FOR VISITS WITHIN TEN DAYS
AND CONSIDERS TARGETS SUCH AS VISITS WITHIN A FEW DAYS OR
A WEEK UNREALISTIC, IT MAKES NO SENSE IN THE CURRENT
EMOTIONALLY CHARGED ATMOSPHERE HERE FOR US TO BE HOLIER
THAN THE RED CROSS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARABS, VISITS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
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